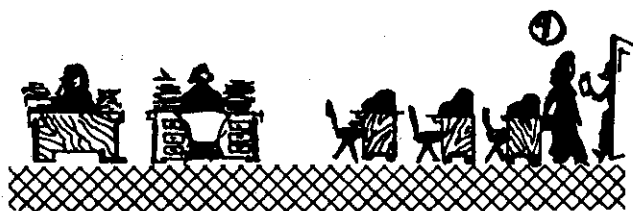
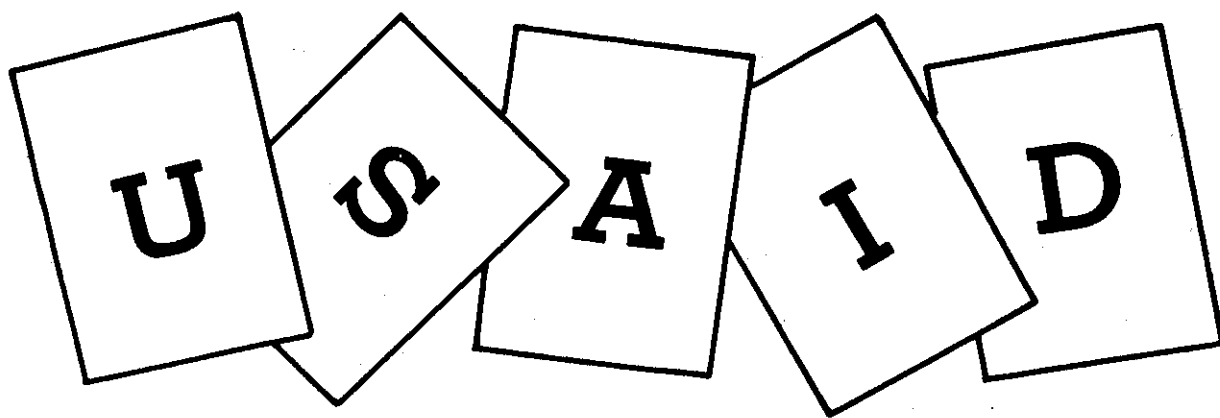


Public Administration Bulletin Vietnam



Date : June 1, 1967

SPECIAL ISSUE: THE VILLAGE ELECTIONS

No. 38

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Foreward	
Villages scheduled to hold elections - Phase I	2
Villages scheduled to hold elections - Phase II	8
Village Council election returns - Recapitulation	9
Village Council election returns - Step I	15
Village Council election returns - Step II	22
Village Council election returns - Step III	29
Village Council election returns - Step IV	26
Village Council election returns - Step V	43
Percentage Chart	50
Election Map	51
Resume and Analysis	52

The Office of Public Administration of USAID, Saigon,
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We publish the Bulletin monthly, with occasional
lapses into two-months intervals when more urgent
business intervenes . Your opinions are welcome.
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to let us know. Our telephone numbers are 93083 to
93090 (USAID), ext. 547.

FOREWORD

This issue of the Public Administration Bulletin is devoted to the Village Council elections held during April 1967. Its purpose is to serve as a documentary, statistical, and analytical record of this forward step in Nation building.

The re-establishment of the village as a semi-autonomous level of government is an exciting and significant action by South Vietnam in its sincere efforts to create a viable, responsible, and responsive administration. The village will no longer be at the bottom end of a long chain of command clumsily working its way down through the agencies of the Central, Provincial, and District governments. Now much of the authority of Province and District Officers over village activities will be assumed by a new set of public officials: the village People's Council, the legislative and policy making body of the village.

Decrees 198 and 199, and Circular 191, all dated 24 December 1966, make provision for the reorganization of the village and hamlet administration and set forth the procedures to be followed in holding elections for village council members, hamlet chiefs and deputy hamlet chiefs. They were published in Public Administration Bulletin No. 35 of 1 February 1967 and together with this issue afford resource material of inestimable value to those concerned with local government.

VILLAGES SCHEDULED TO HOLD ELECTIONS IN 1967

Provisional Schedule Established

by

Special Commissioner for Administration

March 1967

VILLAGES SCHEDULED TO HOLD ELECTIONS

April 2, 1967 - April 30, 1967

TACTICAL ZONE	Provinces	Villages	Step 1 2/4/67	Step 2 9/4/67	Step 3 16/4/67	Step 4 30/4/67	Total
Zone I	5	594	29	21	40	38	171
Zone II	12	750	67	74	83	21	288
Zone III	11	453	31	57	47	11	203
Zone IV	16	774	92	104	72	13	329
Total	44	2,526	219	256	242	83	991

VILLAGES SCHEDULED TO HOLD ELECTIONS

April 2, 1967 - April 30, 1967

Zone I Province	Number of Villages	Step 1 2/4/67	Step 2 9/4/67	Step 3 16/4/67	Step 4 23/4/67	Step 5 30/4/67	Total
- Quang Nam	141	7	0	12	0	15	34
- Quang Ngai	159	5	9	10	12	0	36
- Quang Tin	70	0	3	1	4	13	21
- Quang Tri	84	7	0	4	16	10	37
- Thua Thien	95	10	9	13	11	0	43
Total	549	29	21	40	43	38	171

VILLAGES SCHEDULED TO HOLD ELECTIONS

April 2, 1967 - April 30, 1967

Zone II Province	: Number of: : Villages :	Step 1 : 2/4/67 :	Step 2 : 9/4/67 :	Step 3 : 16/4/67 :	Step 4 : 23/4/67 :	Step 5 : 30/4/67 :	Total :
Binh-Dinh	: 169 :	: 15 :	: 14 :	: 12 :	: 5 :	:	: 46 :
Binh Thuan	: 55 :	:	:	: 16 :	:	: 17 :	: 33 :
Darlac	: 60 :	:	: 9 :	: 8 :	: 3 :	: 2 :	: 22 :
Lam Dong	: 24 :	: 3 :	:	: 3 :	: 4 :	:	: 10 :
Khanh Hoa	: 70 :	: 10 :	: 10 :	: 10 :	: 15 :	:	: 45 :
Kontum	: 105 :	: 13 :	: 2 :	: 7 :	: 6 :	: 1 :	: 37 :
Quang Duc	: 19 :	:	: 4 :	: 4 :	:	:	: 6 :
Phu Bon	: 31 :	: 3 :	: 4 :	: 4 :	: 2 :	:	: 13 :
Phu Yen	: 55 :	: 4 :	: 4 :	: 3 :	: 2 :	:	: 13 :
Pleiku	: 107 :	: 6 :	: 6 :	: 3 :	: 3 :	:	: 18 :
Ninh Thuan	: 27 :	: 7 :	: 7 :	: 6 :	: 3 :	: 1 :	: 24 :
Tuyen Duc	: 28 :	: 6 :	: 8 :	: 7 :	:	:	: 21 :
Total	: 750 :	: 67 :	: 74 :	: 83 :	: 43 :	: 21 :	: 288 :

VILLAGES SCHEDULED TO HOLD ELECTIONS

April 2, 1967 - April 30, 1967

Zone III Province	Number of Villages	Step 1 2/4/67	Step 2 9/4/67	Step 3 16/4/67	Step 4 23/4/67	Step 5 30/4/67	Total
Bien Hoa	72	0	14	12	11	6	43
Binh Duong	54	4	8	4	4		20
Binh Long	29	1	4	3	4	2	14
Hau Nghia	24	0	6	0	0		6
Long An	81	12	8	8	1		29
Long Khanh	18	3	4	6	2		15
Binh Tuy	19	0	0	0	2	3	5
Phuoc Long	16	2	2	2	0		6
Phuoc Tuy	22	2	4	7	4		17
Tay Ninh	45	7	7	5	4		23
Gia Dinh	73	7			25		25
Total	453	31	57	47	57	11	203

VILLAGES SCHEDULED TO HOLD ELECTIONS

April 2, 1967 - April 30, 1967

Zone IV Province	Number of Villages	Step 1 2/4/67	Step 2 9/4/67	Step 3 16/4/67	Step 4 23/4/67	Step 5 30/4/67	Total
An Giang	38	11	13	8	6		38
An Xuyen	23	1	1	1	1	3	7
Ba Xuyen	53	8	9	5			22
Bac Lieu	19	2	3	3	5		13
Chau Doc	57	14	12	11	5	3	45
Chuong Thien	35		5	4	5		14
Dinh Tuong	93	4	4	3	3		14
Go Cong	31	4	1	3	1		9
Kien Giang	41		8				8
Kien Hoa	115		3	1	2		6
Kien Phuoc	45	6	7	7	4		24
Kien Tuong	26	13					13
Phong Dinh	41	4	4	3	3		14
Sa Dec	36	7	15	7	2		31
Vinh Binh	56	6	7	6	2	4	25
Vinh Long	65	12	12	10	9	3	46
Total	774	92	104	72	48	13	329

VILLAGES SCHEDULED TO HOLD ELECTIONS PHASE II

Tactical Zone	No. of Provinces	No. of Villages	Villages Holding Election Phase II	Villages Having Appointed Provisional Committees
Zone I	5	594	58	244
Zone II	12	750	77	208
Zone III	11	453	70	132
Zone IV	16	774	70	344
Total	44	2526	275	928

* The number of villages scheduled to hold elections during Phase II is an estimate based on the progress of the Revolutionary Development pacification program.

VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTION RETURNS

PHASE I

April 2, 1967 - April 30, 1967 Inclusive

RECAPITULATION

Republic of Vietnam
Special Commissariat
for Administration

VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTION RETURNS
RECAPITULATION

Phase I: April 2nd April 30th, 1967 inclusive

- 10 -

Tactical Zone	Number of villages holding election	Candidates			Registered Voters	Voters		Percentage Voting
		Number of members to be elected	Number of Candidates	Candidate Position Ratio		Number Voting		
I	154	1.414	1.899	1,3	392.888	316.877		80,6%
II	285	2.300	3.202	1,3	628.320	512.160		81,5%
III	204	1.856	2.610	1,4	904.865	600.910		66,4%
IV	341	3.394	5.008	1,4	1.307.368	1.081.506		82,7%
Total	984	8.964	12.719	1,41	3.233.441	2.511.453		77,6%

Republic of Vietnam
Special Commissariat
for Administration

VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTION RETURNS
RECEPITULATION

Phase I: April 2nd April 30th, 1967 inclusive

Provinces	Number of vil- lages holding election	Candidates				Voters			Remarks
		Number of members to be elected	Number of candidates	Candidates position	Ratio	Registered Voters	Number Voting	Percentage Voting	
QUANG NAM	30	284	365	1,2	80.079	66.857	80,9%		
QUANG NGAI	33	308	473	1,5	95.761	70.988	74%		
QUANG TIN	21	194	256	1,3	63.583	53.582	84,2%		
QUANG TRI	30	266	319	1,2	62.775	51.360	81,8%		
THUA THIEN	40	362	486	1,3	90.690	74.090	81,6%		
Total	154	1.414	1.899	1,3	392.888	316.877	80,6%		

Republic of Vietnam
Special Commissariat
for Administration

VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTION RETURNS
RECAPITULATION

Phase I: April 2nd April 30th, 1967 inclusive

12

Provinces	:Number of vil- :lages holding :election	Candidates				Voters			Remarks
		: Number of : members to be : elected	: Number of : candidates	: Candidates : position : Ratio	: Registered : Voters	: Number Voting	: Percentage : Voting		
Binh Dinh	: 46	: 422	: 651	: 1,5	: 152.766	: 134.711	: 81,1%	:	
Binh Thuan	: 30	: 244	: 325	: 1,3	: 42.341	: 35.693	: 84,2%	:	
Darlac	: 22	: 170	: 216	: 1,2	: 56.733	: 41.373	: 72,9%	:	
Lam Dong	: 10	: 82	: 116	: 1,4	: 22.058	: 16.579	: 75,1%	:	
Khanh Hoa	: 45	: 382	: 524	: 1,3	: 127.530	: 93.922	: 73,6%	:	
Kontum	: 37	: 234	: 300	: 1,2	: 25.955	: 24.052	: 92,6%	:	
Quang Duc	: 6	: 42	: 53	: 1,2	: 6.999	: 6.672	: 95,3%	:	
Phu Bon	: 13	: 84	: 116	: 1,3	: 11.298	: 10.458	: 92,5%	:	
Phu Yen	: 13	: 130	: 206	: 1,5	: 60.738	: 49.193	: 80,9%	:	
Pleiku	: 18	: 126	: 166	: 1,3	: 34.052	: 26.255	: 77,1%	:	
Ninh Thuan	: 24	: 212	: 252	: 1,1	: 55.143	: 49.690	: 88,5%	:	
Tuyen Duc	: 21	: 172	: 277	: 1,6	: 31.707	: 25.562	: 80,6%	:	
TOTAL	: 285	: 2.300	: 3.202	: 1,3	: 628.320	: 512.160	: 81,5%	:	

Republic of Vietnam
Special Commissariat
for Administration

VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTION RETURNS
RECEPITULATION

Phase I: April 2nd April 30th, 1967 inclusive

- 13 -

Provinces	Number of villages holding election	Candidates				Voters			Remarks
		Number of members to be elected	Number of candidates	Candidates position	Ratio	Registered Voters	Number Voting	Percentage Voting	
Bien Hoa	42	348	463	1,3	130.736	96.610	73,8%		
Binh Duong	20	192	292	1,5	68.380	56.204	82,1%		
Binh Long	14	112	165	1,4	24.905	19.377	77,8%		
Hau Nghia	6	64	84	1,3	28.551	19.836	69,4%		
Long An	29	220	297	1,3	53.681	44.556	83%		
Long Khanh	15	156	209	1,3	48.025	33.069	68,8%		
Binh Tuy	7	64	106	1,6	17.105	13.194	77,1%		
Phuoc Long	6	50	76	1,5	17.414	16.568	95,1%		
Phuoc Tuy	17	150	192	1,2	39.341	35.350	89,8%		
Tay Ninh	23	224	330	1,4	109.931	84.723	77%		
Gia Dinh	25	276	396	1,3	366.796	181.423	49,2%		
TOTAL	204	1.856	2.610	1,4	904.865	600.910	66,4%		

Republic of Vietnam
Special Commissariat
for Administration

VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTION RETURNS
RECEPITULATION

Phase I: April 2nd April 30th, 1967 inclusive

- 14 -

Provinces	Number of vil- lages holding election	Number of members to be elected	Candidates Number of candidates Ratio	Candidates position Ratio	Registered Voters	Number Voting	Percentage Voting	Remarks
An Giang	38	418	568	1,3	219.223	172.070	78,4%	
An Xuyen	7	72	104	1,4	33.467	28.155	84,1%	
Ba Xuyen	22	224	445	1,9	83.161	64.305	77,3%	
Bac Lieu	13	146	216	1,4	64.750	47.624	73,5%	
Chau Doc	45	454	675	1,4	173.922	156.694	90%	
Chuong Thien	14	128	193	1,5	32.515	23.706	72,9%	
Dinh Tuong	14	132	207	1,5	64.584	48.613	75,2%	
Go Cong	9	80	99	1,2	22.798	20.916	91,7%	
Kien Giang	20	208	289	1,3	95.822	76.071	9,3%	
Kien Hoa	6	66	107	1,6	49.744	35.147	70,6%	
Kien Phong	24	240	400	1,6	74.770	72.282	96%	
Kien Tuong	13	88	117	1,3	11.958	9.914	82,9%	
Phong Dinh	14	156	206	1,3	91.205	56.779	62,2%	
Sa Dec	31	298	431	1,4	88.730	87.245	98,3%	
Vinh Binh	25	238	320	1,3	73.630	61.975	84,1%	
Vinh Long	46	446	631	1,4	127.089	120.010	94,4%	
TOTAL	341	3.394	5.008	1,4 %	1.307.368	1.081.506	82,7%	

VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTION RETURNS

Step I April 2, 1967

VILLAGE ELECTION RETURNS

Step 1 - Date 2-4-1967

Tactical Zone	Number of vil- lages under election	Candidates			Voters		
		Number of members to be elected	Number of Candidates	Candidate position Ratio	Registered: Voters	Number Voting:	Percentage
I	29	266	361	1,3	68.472	56.492	82,4%
II	67	538	742	1,4	133.733	111.383	83,1%
III	31	282	389	1,4	112.256	85.834	76,4%
IV	92	878	1226	1,4	300.156	241.483	80,4%
Total	219	1964	2718	1,4%	614.657	495.192	80,5%

Republic of Vietnam
Special Commissariat
for Administration

ELECTION RETURNS

Step 1 - Date 2/4/67

Province	Number of vil- lages under election	Candidates			Voters			Remarks
		Number of members to be elected	Number of Candidates	Candidates Position Ratio	Registered Voters	Number Voting	Percentage	
QUANG NAM	7	60	88	1,4	10.568	9.545	90,3%	
QUANG NGAI	5	44	69	1,5	12.378	10.289	83.1%	
QUANG TIN	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	
QUANG TRI	7	72	82	1,1	24.142	19.395	80,3%	
THUA THIEN	10	90	122	1,4	21.384	17.263	80,7%	
Total	29	266	361	1,3	68.472	56.492	82,4%	

Republic of Vietnam
Special Commissariat
for Administration

ELECTION RETURNS

Step 1 - Date 2.4.67

Province	Number of vil- lages under election	Candidates			Voters			Remarks
		Number of members to be elected	Number of Candidates	Candidates: Position Ratio	Registered: Voters	Number Voting	Percentage	
BINH DINH	15	142	208	1,4	39.756	34.122	85,8%	
BINH THUAN		0						
DARLAC		0						
LAM DONG	3	22	31	1,4	4.713	3.918	83,5%	
KHANH HOA	10	84	107	1,2	17.284	14.681	84,9%	
KONTUM	13	82	104	1,2	5.688	5.320	93,5%	
QUANG DUC		0						
PHU BON	3	20	32	1,6	3.412	3.012	88,3%	
PHU YEN	4	42	69	1,6	33.488	24.077	72%	
PLEIKU	6	40	51	1,3	5.455	5.183	95%	
NINH THUAN	7	64	71	1,1	18.886	16.125	85,3%	
TUYEN DUC	6	42	69	1,6	5.091	4.946	95,2%	
Total	67	538	742	1,4	133.773	111.383	83,1%	

Republic of Vietnam
Special Commissariat
for Administration

ELECTION RETURNS

Step 1 - Date 2/4/67

Province	Number of vil- lages under election	Candidates			Voters		
		Number of members to be elected	Number of Candidates	Candidates: Position Ratio	Registered: Voters	Number Voting	Percentage
BIEN HOA	-	0	-	-	-	-	-
BINH DUONG	4	42	55	1,3	15.570	12.972	83,4%
BINH LONG	1	6	8	1,3	214	197	92%
HAU NGHIA	-	0	-	-	-	-	-
LONG AN	12	92	118	1,2	20.556	16.897	82,1%
LONG KHANH	3	34	41	1,2	15.580	9.923	63%
BINH TUY	-	0	-	-	-	-	-
PHUOC LONG	2	20	33	1,6	11.643	11.078	95,1%
PHUOC TUY	2	16	23	1,4	2.673	2.607	97,5%
TAY NINH	7	72	111	1,8	46.020	32.160	70%
GIA DINH	-	0	-	-	-	-	-
Total	31	282	389	1,4	112.256	85.834	76,4%

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
SPECIAL COMMISSARIAT
FOR ADMINISTRATION

ELECTION RETURNS

Step 1 - Date 2.4.67

Province	Number of vil- lages under election	Candidates				Voters		
		Number of members to be elected	Number of Candidates	Candidates: Position Ratio	Registered: Voters	Number Voting	Percentage	
AN GIANG	11	124	169	1,3	88.375	54.846	62%	
AN XUYEN	1	12	16	1,3	18.750	15.175	80,9%	
BA XUYEN	8	74	133	1,8	17.431	15.314	87,9%	
BAC LIEU	2	22	25	1,1	2.769	2.086	75,3%	
CHAU DOC	14	146	206	1,4	47.383	41.892	88,4%	
CHUONG THIEN		0						
DINH TUONG	4	36	56	1,5	10.000	8.101	81%	
GO CONG	4	36	43	1,2	7.127	6.672	93,6%	
KIEN GIANG		0						
KIEN HOA		0						
KIEN PHONG	6	62	91	1,4	20.088	18.637	93,1%	
KIEN TUONG	13	88	117	1,3	11.958	9.914	82,9%	
PHONG DINH	4	44	53	1,2	16.716	12.306	73,6%	
SADEC	7	68	92	1,3	18.506	18.349	99,1%	
VINH BINH	6	58	78	1,4	18.086	16.339	90%	
VINH LONG	12	108	147	1,3	22.967	21.852	95,1%	
TOTAL	92	878	1.226	1,4	300.156	241.483	80,4%	

VILLAGE ELECTIONS

Step 1 - April 2, 1967

Distribution of elected officials by profession:

Farmers	834
Village & Hamlet Officials	64
Merchants	170
Employees (private industry)	45
Liberal Professions	
Civil Servants	96
Notables	
Industrial Workers	56
Veterans	6
Prov. Council Members	
Housewives & others	28
Students	
Not reported	<u>665</u>
Total	1,964

Distribution of elected officials by ethnic background:

Highlanders	25
Cham	3
Cambodian origin	33
Chinese origin	4
Vietnamese	<u>1,899</u>
Total	1,964

Distribution of elected officials by age:

Oldest	82
Youngest	25
Average age	45

VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTION RETURNS

STEP II April 9, 1967

VILLAGE ELECTION RETURNS

Step 2 Date 9.4.1967

Tactical Zone	Number of Villages Under Election	Candidates			Voters		
		Number of Member To Be Elected	Number of Candidates	Candidate Position Ratio	Registered Voters	Number Voting	Percentage
I	20	188	269	1,4	61.148	45.878	75%
II	73	586	833	1,4	128.786	114.279	88,7%
III	55	502	720	1,4	156.299	127.278	81,4%
IV	104	1.050	1.544	1,5	372.060	299.657	80,6%
TOTAL	252	2.326	3.366	1,42	718.293	587.092	81,7%

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

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ELECTION RETURNS

SPECIAL COMMISSARIAT
FOR ADMINISTRATION

Step 2 Date 9.4.1967

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PROVINCE	Number of villages Under election	Candidates			Voters		
		Number of members to be elected	Number of Candidates	Candidates position Ratio	Registered Voters	Number Voting	Percentage
QUANG-NAM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
QUANG-NGAI	9	84	132	1,5	21.030	16.967	80,6%
QUANG-TIN	3	32	39	1,2	22.077	15.251	69 %
QUANG-TRI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
THUA-THIEN	8	72	98	1,3	18.041	13.660	75,7%
Total	20	188	269	1,4	61.148	45.878	75 %

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

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ELECTION RETURNS

SPECIAL COMMISSARIAT
FOR ADMINISTRATION

Step 2 Date 9-4-1967

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PROVINCE	Number of vil- lages under election	Candidates			Voters		
		Number of Members to be elected	Number of Candidates	Candidates position Ratio	Registered Voters	Number Voting	Percentage
Binh-Dinh	14	126	188	1,4	35.544	34.194	96,2%
Binh-Thuan	8	66	89	1,3	12.573	11.335	90,1%
Darlac	10	82	116	1,4	23.701	19.539	82,4%
Lam-Dong	10	60	76	1,2	3.489	3.276	93,9%
Khanh-Hoa	2	16	21	1,3	3.754	3.443	91,7%
Kontum	4	26	34	1,3	3.127	3.050	97,5%
Quang-Duc	4	38	61	1,6	12.850	11.472	89,2%
Phu-Bon	6	40	56	1,4	4.610	4.176	90,5%
Phu-Yen	7	64	74	1,1	16.110	13.993	86,8%
Pleiku	8	68	118	1,7	13.028	9.801	75,2%
Ninh-Thuan							
Tuyen-Duc							
Total	73	586	833	1,4	128.786	114.279	88,7%

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

* *
SPECIAL COMMISSARIAT
FOR ADMINISTRATION
* *
*

ELECTION RETURNS

Step 2 Date 9-4-1967

PROVINCE	Number of villages under election	Candidates			Voters		
		Number of members to be elected	Number of candidates	Candidates position Ratio	Registered Voters	Number Voting	Percentage
Bien-Hoa	14	120	163	1,3	31.814	25.904	81,4%
Binh-Duong	8	80	126	1,5	26.862	23.291	86,7%
Binh-Long	4	32	49	1,5	7.010	4.817	68,7%
Hau-Nghia	6	64	84	1,3	28.551	19.836	69,4%
Long-An	8	60	90	1,5	11.696	11.030	94,3%
Long-Khanh	4	38	51	1,3	7.213	5.795	80,3%
Binh-Tuy							
Phuoc-Long	2	16	24	1,5	3.798	3.627	95,4%
Phuoc-Tuy	2	18	26	1,4	4.197	3.798	90,5%
Tay-Ninh	7	74	107	1,4	36.604	29.180	80,00%
Gia-Dinh							
Total	55	502	720	1,4	156.299	127.278	81,4%

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

**

ELECTION RETURNS

SPECIAL COMMISSARIAT
FOR ADMINISTRATION

Step 2

Date 9/4/67

**
*

PROVINCE	Nuber of Villages under election	Candidates			Voters		
		mber of Members to be elected	Number of Candidates	Candidates position Ratio	Registered Voters	Numbers Voting	Percentage
AN-GIANG	13	136	194	1,4	51.058	45.041	88,2%
AN-XUYEN	1	12	16	1,3	5.254	4.572	87%
BA-XUYEN	9	92	163	1,7	25.265	21.257	84,2%
BAC-LIEU	3	36	43	1,1	15.490	12.941	83,5%
CHAU-DOC	12	114	164	1,4	40.063	35.772	89%
CHUONG-THIEN	5	52	73	1,4	15.777	9.834	62,3%
DINH-TUONG	4	36	53	1,4	4.909	4.705	95,8%
GO-CONG	1	8	8	1,0	1.671	1.567	93,%
KIEN-GIANG	8	86	126	1,4	51.367	34.921	67,9%
KIEN-HOA	3	34	53	1,7	11.635	10.158	87,3%
KIEN-PHONG	7	72	129	1,6	23.776	23.249	97,8%
KIEN-TUONG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PHONG -DINH	4	46	60	1,3	50.392	24.073	47,7%
SADEC	15	136	201	1,5	29.298	28.491	97,2%
VINH-BINH	7	66	90	1,3	13.958	11.961	85,6%
VINH-LONG	12	124	171	1,3	32.147	31.112	96,7%
TOTAL	104	1.050	1.544	1,5	372.060	299.654	80,6%

VILLAGE ELECTIONS

Step 2 - April 9, 1967

Distribution of elected officials by profession:

Farmers	1,242
Village & Hamlet Officials	245
Merchants	220
Employees (private industry)	102
Liberal Professions	67
Civil Servants	54
Notables	22
Industrial Workers	23
Veterans	9
Prov. Councils Members	5
Housewives & others	11
Not reported	<u>326</u>
Total	2,326

Distribution of elected officials by ethnic background:

Highlanders	83
Cham	8
Cambodian origin	46
Chinese origin	4
Vietnamese	<u>2,185</u>
Total	2,326

Distribution of elected officials by age:

Oldest	85
Youngest	25
Average age	45

VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTION RETURNS

STEP III April 16, 1967

VILLAGE ELECTION RETURNS

Step 3 - Date 16/4/1967

Tactical Zone	Number of Villages under election	Candidates			Voters		
		Number of members to be elected	Number of candidates	Candidates: Position Ratio	Registered Voters	Number voting	Percentage
I	32	302	410	1,3	98.382	74.144	75,4%
II	83	666	897	1,3	189.306	141.905	74,9%
III	48	420	571	1,3	132.984	103.504	77,8%
IV	81	830	1.271	1,5	313.706	278.032	88,6%
Total	244	2.218	3.149	1,4	734.378	597.585	81,3%

Republic of Vietnam
Special Commissariat
for Administration

VILLAGE ELECTION RETURNS

Step 3 - Date 16/4/1967

Province	Number of vil- lages under election	Candidates			Voters		
		Number of	Number of	Candidates	Registered	Number Voting	Percentage
		members to be elected	Candidates	Position Ratio	Voters		
QUANG NAM	9	92	112	1,2	37.018	28.254	76,3%
QUANG NGAI	9	88	124	1,3	31.766	21.059	73,3%
QUANG TIN	1	10	17	1,6	3.579	3.255	91%
QUANG TRI	4	30	36	1,2	5.194	4.724	90,9%
THUA THIEN	9	82	121	1,4	20.825	16.852	80%
Total	32	302	410	1,3	98.382	74,144	75,4%

Republic of Vietnam
Special Commissariat
for Administration

VILLAGE ELECTION RETURNS

Step 3 - Date 16/4/1967

Province	Number of vil- lages under election	Candidates			Voters		
		Number of	Number of	Candidates	Registered:	Number Voting:	Percentage
		members to be elected	Candidates	Position Ratio	Voters		
BINH DINH	12	106	170	1,6	25.272	24.883	98%
BINH THUAN	16	130	151	1,1	22.527	16.786	74,5%
DARLAC	8	60	76	1,2	37.969	24.062	63,3%
LAM DONG	3	26	39	1,5	4.674	4.132	88,4%
KHANH HOA	10	88	124	1,4	56.560	33.856	59,8%
KONTUM	7	44	52	1,1	3.040	2.935	96,5%
QUANG DUC	4	26	32	1,2	3.245	3.229	99,5%
PHU BON	4	26	34	1,3	3.065	2.811	91,7%
PHU YEN	3	30	46	1,6	9.756	9.172	94%
PLEIKU	3	22	27	1,2	2.325	2.286	98,3%
NINH THUAN	6	46	56	1,2	7.285	6.938	95,2%
TUYEN DUC	7	62	90	1,5	13.588	10.815	79,5%
Total	83	666	897	1,3	189.306	141.905	74,9%

Republic of Vietnam
Special Commissariat
for Administration

VILLAGE ELECTION RETURNS

Step 3 - Date 16/4/1967

Province	Number of vil- lages under election	Candidates				Voters		
		Number of members to be elected	Number of candidates	Candidates position Ratio	Registered Voters	Number Voting	Percentage	
BIEN HOA	12	106	141	1,3	39.819	31.007	77,8%	
BINH DUONG	4	40	69	1,7	21.976	15.157	69%	
BINH LONG	3	26	35	1,3	6.055	5.674	93,6%	
HAU NGHIA	Election in all villages under stage I was completed							
LONG AN	8	56	74	1,2	6.355	6.170	97%	
LONG KHANH	6	64	85	1,3	21.347	14.555	68,1%	
BINH TUY	2	20	25	1,2	7.487	5.685	76%	
PHUOC LONG	2	14	19	1,3	1.973	1.863	94,4%	
PHUOC TUY	6	54	66	1,2	16.071	13.491	84%	
TAY NINH	5	40	57	1,4	11.901	9.902	83,2%	
GIA DINH	Will hold election for phase following 23 April 1967							
Total	48	420	571	1,3	132.984	103.504	77,8%	

Republic of Vietnam
Special Commissariat
for Administration

VILLAGE ELECTION RETURNS

Step 3 - 16/4/1967

Province	Number of vil- lages under election	Candidates			Voters		
		Number of members to be elected	Number of candidates	Candidates position Ratio	Registered Voters	Number Voting	Percentage
AN GIANG	8	88	108	1,2	34.050	30.501	89,5%
AN XUYEN	1	12	19	1,6	2.399	1.786	74,4%
BA XUYEN	5	58	149	2,6	40.465	27.734	68,6%
BAC LIEU	3	36	63	1,8	10.089	9.075	89,9%
CHAU DOC	10	94	151	1,6	41.281	36.159	87,5%
CHUONG THIEN	4	32	47	1,4	8.542	6.971	81,6%
DINH TUONG	3	32	50	1,5	8.445	7.787	92,2%
GO CONG	3	30	39	1,3	13.530	12.207	90%
KIEN GIANG	10	104	140	1,3	39.189	36.347	92,7%
KIEN HOA	1	10	13	1,3	5.594	5.076	90,7%
KIEN PHONG	7	66	113	1,7	16.164	15.770	97,5%
KIEN TUONG	Election in all villages under stage I was completed						
PHONG DINH	3	32	44	1,3	9.826	8.800	89,5%
SADEC	7	74	108	1,5	32.878	32.369	98,4%
VINH BINH	6	58	75	1,3	15.148	13.614	89,8%
VINH LONG	10	104	152	1,4	36.108	33.836	93,7%
Total	81	830	1.272	1,5	313.706	278.032	88,6%

VILLAGE ELECTIONS

Step 3 - April 16, 1967

Distribution by profession:

Farmers	962
Village & Hamlet Officials	194
Merchants	194
Workers (private industry)	80
Liberal Profession	74
Civil Servant	67
Notable (well known person)	33
Industrial worker	21
Veterans	3
Prov. Council Member	5
Housekeeper & Others	8
Not reported	<u>577</u>
Grand Total	2,218

(577 not reported)

Distribution by Race:

Highlanders	136
Cham	66
Cambodian	39
Chinese	3
North Vietnamese Refugees	13
Vietnamese	<u>961</u>
Total	2,218

Distribution by Age:

Oldest candidate elected	82
Youngest candidate elected	25
Average age of candidate elected	50

VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTION RETURNS

STEP IV April 23, 1967

VILLAGE ELECTION RETURNS

Step 4 - 23/4/1967

Tactical Zone	Number of vil- lages under election	Candidates				Voters		
		Number of members to be elected	Number of candidates	Candidates position Ratio	Registered Voters	Number Voting	Percentage	
I	33	302	410	1,3	83.952	69.979	83,3%	
II	43	352	492	1,3	134.850	108.195	80,2%	
III	59	576	816	1,4	492.841	275.691	55,9%	
IV	50	508	783	1,5	293.185	235.443	80,3%	

Total	185	1.738	2.501	1,4	1.004.828	689.308	68,5%	

Republic of Vietnam
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for Administration

VILLAGE ELECTION RETURNS

Step 4 - Date 23/4/1967

	Number of vil- lages under election	Candidates				Voters		
		Number of members to be elected	Number of Candidates	Candidates position Ratio	Registered Voters	Number Voting	Percentage	
QUANG NAM								
QUANG NGAI	10	92	148	1,6	30.587	22.673	74,1%	
QUANG TIN	4	40	50	1,2	13.122	11.709	96,2%	
QUANG TRI	9	78	97	1,2	16.141	14.131	81,3%	
THUA THIEN	10	92	115	1,1	24.102	21.466	89%	
Total	33	302	410	1,3	83.952	69.979	83,3%	

Republic of Vietnam
Special Commissariat
for Administration

VILLAGE ELECTION RETURNS

Step 4 - Date 23/4/1967

Province	:Number of vil- :lages under :election	Candidates				Voters		
		: Number of : members to be : elected	: Number of : candidates	: Candidates: : position : Ratio	:	Registered: : Voters	Number Voting:	Percentage:
BINH DINH	: 5	: 48	: 85	: 1,9	:	: 52.214	: 41.513	: 79,5%
BINH THUAN	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DARLAC	: 3	: 24	: 24	: 1	:	: 4.342	: 4.241	: 97,6%
LAM DONG	: 4	: 34	: 46	: 1,3	:	: 12.671	: 8.529	: 67,3%
KHANH HOA	: 15	: 128	: 177	: 1,3	:	: 29.985	: 25.846	: 86,2%
KONTUM	: 6	: 36	: 47	: 1,5	:	: 3.083	: 2.904	: 91,1%
QUANG DUC	: Election	: in all	: villages	: under	:	: stage I was:	: completed	:
PHU BON	: 2	: 12	: 16	: 1,3	:	: 1.694	: 1.585	: 93,5%
PHU YEN	: 2	: 20	: 30	: 1,5	:	: 4.644	: 4.472	: 96%
PLEIKU	: 3	: 24	: 32	: 1,3	:	: 21.662	: 14.610	: 67,4%
NINH THUAN	: 3	: 26	: 35	: 1,3	:	: 4.555	: 4.495	: 98,6%
TUYEN DUC	: Election	: in all	: villages	: under	:	: stage I was	: completed	:
Total	: 43	: 352	: 492	: 1,3	:	: 134.850	: 108.195	: 80,2%

Republic of Vietnam
Special Commissariat
for Administration

VILLAGE ELECTION RETURNS

Step 4 - Date 23/4/1967

Province	Number of vil- lages under election	Candidates			Voters		
		Number of members to be elected	Number of candidates	Candidates position	Registered Voters	Number Voting	Percentage
BIEN HOA	10	86	111	1,2	56.412	37.047	65,6%
BINH DUONG	4	30	42	1,4	5.418	4.784	88,3%
BINH LONG	4	34	54	1,5	9.696	6.853	70,6%
HAU NGHIA	Election in all villages under stage I was completed						
LONG AN	1	12	15	1,2	15.074	10.459	69,3%
LONG KHANH	2	20	32	1,6	3.885	2.796	71,9%
BINH TUY	2	18	34	1,8	3.754	3.394	90,4%
PHUOC LONG	Election in all villages under stage I was completed						
PHUOC TUY	7	62	77	1,2	16.400	15.454	94,2%
TAY NINH	4	38	55	1,4	15.406	13.481	87,5%
GIA DINH	25	276	396	1,3	366.796	181.423	49,2%
Total	59	576	816	1,4	492.841	275.691	55,9%

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for Administration

VILLAGE ELECTION RETURNS

Step 4 - Date 23/4/1967

Province	Number of vil- lages under election	Candidates				Voters		
		Number of members to be elected	Number of candidates	Candidates: position Ratio	Registered: Voters	Number Voting	Percentage	
AN GIANG	6	70	97	1,3	45.740	41.682	91,1%	
AN XUYEN	1	10	14	1,4	2.837	2.735	96,4%	
BA XUYEN	Election in all villages under stage I was completed							
BAC LIEU	5	52	85	1,6	36.402	23.522	64,6%	
CHAU DOC	5	58	93	1,6	32.413	30.694	94,7%	
CHUONG THIEN	5	44	73	1,6	8.196	6.901	84,1%	
DINH TUONG	3	28	48	1,9	41.230	28.020	67,9%	
GO CONG	1	6	9	1,5	470	470	100%	
KIEN GIANG	2	18	23	1,2	5.267	4.803	90,1%	
KIEN HOA	2	22	41	1,9	32.515	19.913	61,2%	
KIEN PHONG	4	40	67	1,6	14.742	14.626	99,20%	
KIEN TUONG	Election in all villages under stage I was completed							
PHONG DINH	3	34	49	1,4	14.271	11.600	81,2%	
SADEC	2	20	30	1,5	8.048	8.036	99,8%	
VINH BINH	2	22	26	1,2	20.145	13.941	69,2%	
VINH LONG	9	84	128	1,5	30.909	28.500	92,2%	
Total	50	508	783	1,5	293.185	235.443	80,3%	

VILLAGE ELECTIONS

Step 4 - April 23, 1967

Distribution of elected officials by profession:

Farmers	435
Village & Hamlet Officials	123
Merchants	139
Workers	29
Liberal Profession	55
Civil Servant	20
Notable	16
Industrial Worker	38
Veterans	2
Prov. Council Member	2
Housekeeper & others	20
Not reported	<u>859</u>
TOTAL	1,738

(Excluding other 859 candidates whose information has not been provided)

Distribution by Race:

Highlanders	37
Cham	
Cambodian	1
Chinese	4
Vietnamese	<u>1,696</u>
Total	1,738

Distribution by Age:

Oldest candidate elected	85
Youngest candidate elected	23
Average age of candidate elected	48

VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTION RETURNS

STEP 5 April 30, 1967

VILLAGE ELECTION RETURNS

Step 5 - Date 30/4/1967

Tactical Zone	Number of vil- lages under election	Candidates				Voters		
		Number of members to be elected	Number of candidates	Candidates position Ratio	Registered Voters	Number Voting	Percentage	
I	40	356	449	1,2	80.934	70.384	86,9%	
II	19	158	238	1,5	41.645	36.398	87,4%	
III	11	76	114	1,5	10.485	8.603	82%	
IV	14	128	184	1,4	28.261	26.894	95,1%	
Total	84	718	985	1,3	161.325	142.279	88,1%	

Republic of Vietnam
Special Commissariat
for Administration

VILLAGE ELECTION RETURNS

Step 5 - 30/4/1967

Province	Number of vil- lages under election	Candidates				Voters		
		Number of members to be elected	Number of candidates	Candidates position Ratio	Registered Voters	Number Voting	Percentage	
QUANG NAM	14	132	165	1,2	32.493	29.058	89,4%	
QUANG NGAI	Election in all villages under stage I was completed							
QUANG TIN	13	112	150	1,2	24.805	23.367	94,2%	
QUANG TRI	10	86	104	1,2	17.298	13.110	81,1%	
THUA THIEN	3	26	30	1,1	6.338	4.849	76,5%	
Total	40	356	449	1,2	80.934	70.384	86,9%	

Republic of Vietnam
Special Commissariat
for Administration

VILLAGE ELECTION RETURNS

Step 5 - Date 30/4/1967

Province	:Number of vil : lages under : election	Candidates				Voters		
		: Number of : members to be : elected	: Number of : candidates : Ratio	: Candidates : position : Ratio	: Registered : Voters	: Number Voting	: Percentage	
Binh Dinh	: (a)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Binh Thuan	: 14	: 114	: 174	: 1,5	: 19.814	: 16.907	: 80,3%	:
Darlac	: 3	: 20	: 27	: 1,3	: 1.849	: 1.735	: 93,8%	:
Lam Dong	: (a)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Khanh Hoa	: (a)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Kontum	: 1	: 12	: 21	: 1,7	: 10.655	: 9.617	: 90,2%	:
Quang Duc	: (a)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Phu Bon	: (a)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Phu Yen	: (a)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Pleiku	: (a)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Ninh Thuan	: 1	: 12	: 16	: 1,3	: 9.327	: 8.139	: 87,2%	:
Tuyen Duc	: (a)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
TOTAL	: 19	: 158	: 238	: 1,5	: 41.645	: 36.398	: 87,4%	:

Remarks: (a) Elections in all villages under stage I completed

Republic of Vietnam
Special Commissariat
for Administration

VILLAGE ELECTION RETURNS

Step 5 - Date 30/4/1967

PROVINCE	Number of vil- lages under election	Candidates			Voters		
		Number of members to be elected	Number of candidates	Candidates: position Ratio	Registered Voters	Number Voting	Percentage
Bien Hoa	6	36	48	1,3	2.691	2.652	98,5%
Binh Duong	(a)						
Binh Long	2	14	19	1,3	1.930	1.836	95,1%
Hau Nghia	(a)						
Long An	(a)						
Long Khanh	(a)						
Binh Tuy	3	26	47	1,8	5.864	4.115	96,6%
Phuoc Long	(a)						
Phuoc Tuy	(a)						
Tay Ninh	(a)						
Gia Dinh	(a)						
TOTAL	11	76	114	1,5	10.485	8.603	82%

Remarks: (a) Elections in all villages under stage I completed

Republic of Vietnam
Special Commissariat
for Administration

VILLAGE ELECTION RETURNS

Step 5 - Date 30/4/1967

PROVINCE	:Number of vil- :lages under : election	Candidates				Voters		
		: Number of : members to be : elected	: Number of : candidates : Ratio	: Candidates : position : Ratio	: Registered : Voters	: Number Voting	: Percentage	
: An Giang	: (a)							
: An Xuyen	: 3	: 26	: 39	: 1,5	: 4.227	: 3.887	: 91,9%	
: Ba Xuyen	: (a)							
: Bac Lieu	: (a)							
: Chau Doc	: 4	: 42	: 61	: 1,4	: 12.783	: 12.177	: 95,3%	
: Chuong Thien	: (a)							
: Dinh Tuong	: (a)							
: Go Cong	: (a)							
: Kien Giang	: (a)							
: Kien Hoa	: (a)							
: Kien Phong	: (a)							
: Kien Tuong	: (a)							
: Phong Dinh	: (a)							
: Sa Dec	: (a)							
: Vinh Binh	: 4	: 34	: 51	: 1,5	: 6.293	: 6.120	: 97,2%	
: Vinh Long	: 3	: 26	: 33	: 1,3	: 4.958	: 4.710	: 94,9%	
: TOTAL	: 14	: 128	: 184	: 1,4	: 28.261	: 26.894	: 95,1%	

Remarks: (a) Election in all villages under stage I was completed

VILLAGE ELECTIONS

Step 5-April 30, 1967

Distribution of elected officials by profession:

Farmers	507
Village & Hamlet Officials	26
Merchants	39
Employees (private industry)	36
Liberal Professions	55
Civil Servants	27
Notables	20
Industrial Workers	0
Veterans	2
Prov. Council Members	2
Housewives & others	3
Students	<u>1</u>
Total	718

Distribution of elected officials by ethnic background:

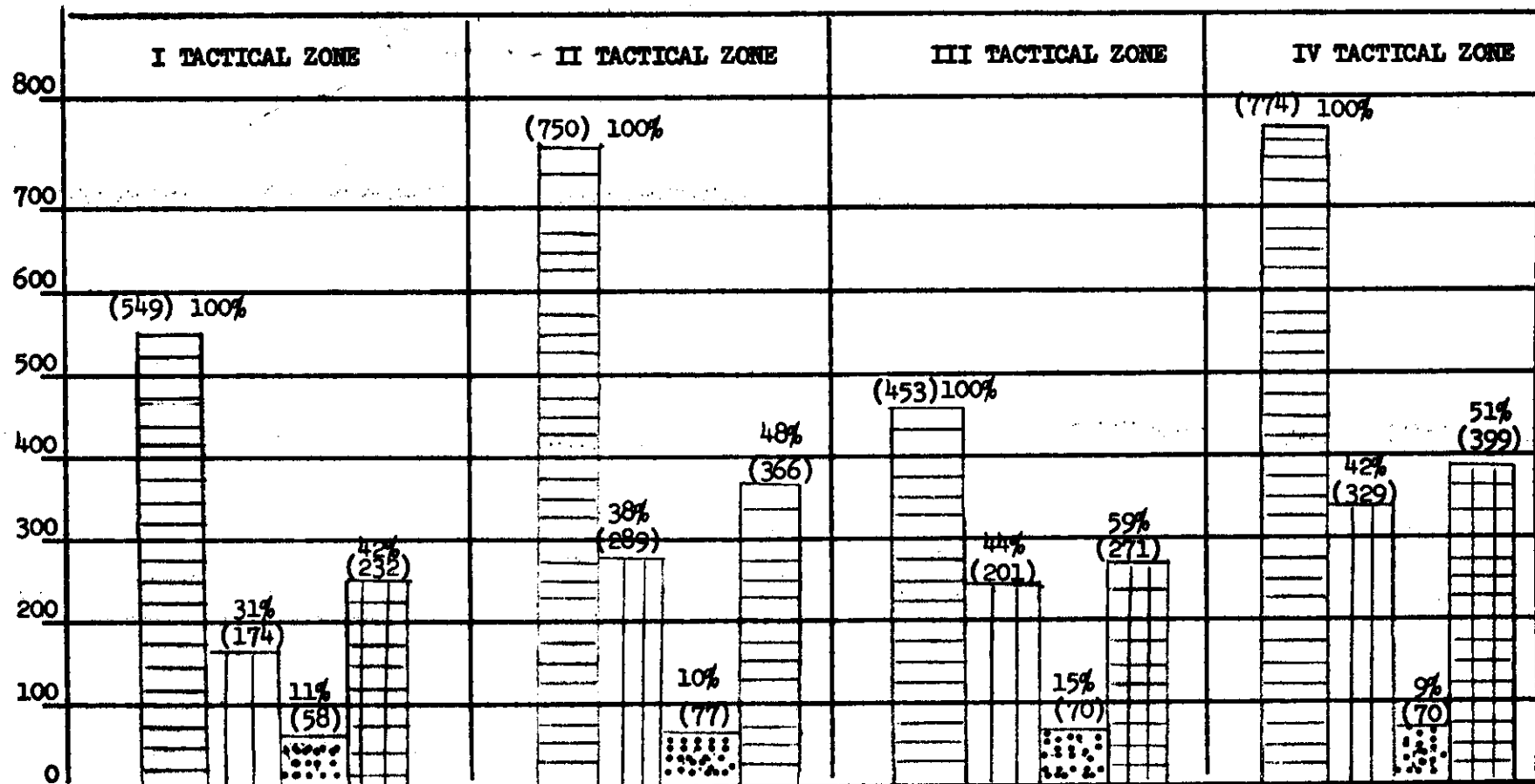
Highlanders	0
Cham	1
Cambodian origin	7
Chinese	0
Vietnamese	<u>710</u>
Total	718

Distribution of elected officials by age:

Oldest	90
Youngest	25
Average	43

PERCENTAGE OF VILLAGES HOLDING ELECTIONS IN 1967

- 50 -



REMARKS:

- Total number of villages
- Under election in 1st phase

- Under election in 2nd phase
- Number of villages holding election Total

VILLAGES HOLDING ELECTIONS

Phase I



RESUME AND ANALYSIS OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

by

THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION

Republic of Vietnam
Special Commissariat
for Administration

ADPA:5/10/67

General remarks on the elections
of Village Councils

-- ** --

Following the election of the National Constituent Assembly on Sept. 11, 1966, the Government of the Republic of Viet Nam took an active interest in the reorganization of village and hamlet institutions in an attempt to restore the inherent positions of villages and hamlets in the national community and to increase efficiency of the basic administration.

A reorganization was stipulated in basic documents issued in Dec. 1966, and was actually initiated through elections of Village Councils held on five consecutive Sundays during last April 1967.

These elections mark a new stage towards building true democracy throughout the nation for while the top political institutions affect nation-wide activities in general, the Village and hamlet institutions through the recent elections directly affect the lives of most people living in villages and hamlets that constitute the basic foundations of the Vietnam society.

Following are general remarks on the organization process and the results of the village elections.

I. Village election plan:

A. Preparations

1. Seminars

- The need for reorganization of village and hamlet administration was discussed briefly at the seminar on local administration held at the former Interior Ministry on July 15 and 16, 1965. At this time opinions and recommendations expressed by conferees were limited to improvement or amendment of village and hamlet administration recently reorganized in accordance with decree No. 203-d/NV dated May 31, 1964.

- In addition, at two nation-wide conferences on administration held at Dien Hong conference hall (one held on Oct. 11 and 12, 1965, and the other on March 23 to 25, 1966), short-comings in the existing village and hamlet administration were discussed in detail, and the conferees came to the conclusion that a reorganization should be carried out in an attempt to:

- Build villages and hamlets on a democratic basis.
- Restore the inherent positions and powers of the villages and hamlets.
- Enhance the prestige, and increase efficiency and facilities for Village Administrative Committees.

2. Conferences held at the Commission
General for Revolutionary Development

Besides the interchange of viewpoints, 3 official meetings were held at this Commission on Sept. 29, Sept. 30, and Oct. 1, 1966 to determine basic principles and guidelines for the project of village/hamlet reorganization to be undertaken by the Special Commission for Administration.

3. Discussions at the conference of the Civilian-Military
Council

The initial draft decree concerning village/hamlet reorganization was prepared by S.C.A. and certain items were amended in accordance with suggestions from an Interdepartmental Committee. Afterwards the entire reorganization project including the draft decree and relevant strengthening measures were raised for discussion at the Civilian-Military Council's meetings conducted by a Joint Committee of Politics & Social Welfare from Nov. 7 to Nov. 13, 1966, and at the plenary session of the Civilian-Military held from Nov. 14 to Nov. 21, 1966. The Civilian-Military agreed on the outlines of the reorganization project paying special attention to strengthening measures. Certain recommendations were proposed to amend the draft decree.

4. Discussions at the War Cabinet meeting held on Nov. 22, 1966

The entire project of village and hamlet administration reorganization along with the Civilian-Military Council recommendations was considered and approved by the War Cabinet on Nov. 22, 1966. In compliance with the War Cabinet's decision, the relevant draft decrees and circulars were amended and submitted for promulgation.

5. Seminars sponsored by S.C.A.

After promulgation of basic documents on Dec. 24, 1966 S.C.A. held a seminar on Jan. 24 and 25, 1967 to help local authorities

understand better the local administration reorganization and the ways of implementation.

Present at the seminar were Administrative Assistants to the four Military Zones Deputy Province Chiefs for Administration, Deputy Mayors for Administration, Chiefs of Administration and Information Services, Training Directors, and 2 District Chiefs from each province.

6. Seminars sponsored by the Military Zones

The 4 Military Zones held seminars on the village and hamlet administration reorganization on the following dates:

- Zone 3 : Feb. 22, 1967 in Bien Hoa
- Zone 4 : Feb. 24, 1967 in Phong Dinh
- Zone 1 : Feb. 27, 1967 in Da Nang
- Zone 2 : Feb. 28, 1967 in Da Lat

A delegation headed by Brig. General Commissioner General for R.D. with representative(s) of S.C.A., attended these seminars to give additional instructions and review reorganization plans set up by the provinces. The Brig. General Commissioner General for R.D. reminded all provinces of the following:

- In hamlets and villages where conditions allow the organization of an election such elections should be absolutely free, honest, and legal.
- Provincial Committees for Coordination of Efforts to Organize Elections should be established immediately.
- Building democracy is a common task for both the government and people. Deputies of the constituencies concerned, the Civilian-Military Councilmen and the Provincial Council members should be consulted to receive their confirmation of hamlets and villages eligible for elections and hamlets and villages where only provisional administrative structures can be set up.
- A detailed plan composed of various technical aspects such as security, propaganda, training, and inspection should be drawn up so as to assure success for the election organization.
- In the election campaign, female candidates should enjoy the same rights as male candidates.

- Voters rolls should be brought up to date in all hamlets & villages including those where elections of village & hamlet institutions cannot be held this stage, so that preparations may be ready for the national elections to be held later in 1967.

7. Election organization leadership system

To oversee the election organization the Prime Minister decided to establish an interdepartmental committee for coordination of efforts to organize elections with the following composition:

- Commission General: Brig-General Commissioner General,
for R.D. Commissioners for Agriculture,
Public Works, Youth, and Special
Commissioner for Administration
- Commission General: Brig.-General Commissioner General,
for Information and Deputy Commissioners for Information,
Chieu Hoi (Open and Chieu Hoi
Arms)
- Commission General: General, Chief of Joint-staff
for Defense Head/Political and War Office
- Commission General: General/Commissioner General,
for Security Director General for Police
- Special Commissioner for Montagnard Affairs
- Director General, Budget & Foreign Aid

The Central Committee was requested to invite representatives of the Constituent Assembly office and representatives of the Civilian-Military Council to participate in meetings and visits organized by the Committee.

In each province a local committee was set up to coordinate all election activities. This committee is composed of:

- Province Chief/Sector Commander
- Deputy Province Chiefs
- Chiefs of Services, Chiefs of Technical Services and R.D. provincial team chief.

The Provincial Committee invited a number of Constituent Assembly deputies and members of the Civilian-Military Council, provincial councillors and local notables to participate in its

meetings and to contribute advice, particularly on determining villages where elections could be held, or where provisional administrative offices should be set up.

The interdepartmental committee studied and decided to apply appropriate measures concerning electoral campaign plans and nationwide security plans.

With the agreement of the interdepartmental committee, an appropriation of 30 million piastres (National Budget) was earmarked to support localities in the organization of elections. Those villages having no budget or lacking financial capacity were to be provided a maximum of 15,000\$ for the election of Village Council and 2,000\$ for the election of Hamlet Management Board.

The Commission General for Information and Open-Arms also earmarked 10 million piastres to support the electoral campaign of the local Information Services.

- Pre-Election Inspection

The S.C.A. established 4 teams to visit all provinces before the election, the purpose of the visit being to observe and inspect the preparation of election plan in the localities.

Each team was headed by a Commissioner (Agriculture, Public Works, Youth), or Special Commissioner for Administration within the bloc of Commission General for Revolutionary Development. Deputies of the constituency concerned, members of Civilian Military Council and press representatives were also invited to participate. During the period 7 to 28 of March 1967, these 4 teams inspected 39 provinces.

B. Promulgation of basic documents and implementation documents

(a) On 24 December 1966, the Chairman of the Central Executive Committee issued 3 basic documents concerning the reorganization of village/hamlet administration:

- decree No. 198-SL/DUHC governing the reorganization of village/hamlet Administrative structure
- decree No. 199-SL/DUHC defining the election procedure of village/hamlet institution (village council, hamlet management board)
- Circular No. 191-TT/DUHC concerning strengthening measures.

(b) In application of the basic documents, the S.C.A. promulgated the following arretes and circulars:

- circular No. 96-DUHC/NC/6 signed 9 January 1967 concerning the implementation of measures for reorganization of village/hamlet administration.
- circular No. 103-DUHC/NC/7 signed 9 January 1967 concerning election procedures for village council, hamlet chiefs and deputy hamlet chiefs.
- circular 106-DUHC/HLTN signed 9 January 1967 regarding the organization of seminars and training of newly elected village and hamlet officials.
- arrete 48-DUHC/NSKT/15 signed 24 January 1967 concerning the increase of allowance and monthly compensation for village and hamlet officials.
- circular No. 552-DUHC/HC/6 dated 14 February 1967 completed by circular No. 96-DUHC/NC/6 and 103-DUHC/NC/7 dated 9 January 1967 dealing with election of village councils and hamlet chiefs.
- circular No. 553-DUHC/HLTN dated 14 February 1967 completed by circular No. 106-DUHC/HLTN dated 9 January 1967 dealing with organization of seminars and training courses for village and hamlet officials.
- Arrete No. 106-DUHC/NC/ND dated 21 February 1967 fixing the procedure for issuance and use of voter's cards in the election of village councils and hamlet officials.

In addition, the Special Commission for Administration issued 462 Memos. dealing with election of village councils, hamlet chiefs and deputy chiefs as follows:

- Report:	20
- Circular:	11
- Memo:	266
- Routing slip:	53
- Miscellaneous:	112

C. Election Schedule

Decree No. 198-SL/DUHC dated 24 December 1966, reorganization of village administration provided for the following:

- In secure villages, election of village council which is a deliberative body is to be held. This council will elect

one among its members as chairman of the village administrative committee which is an executive body.

- In insecure villages, a provisional village administrative committee will be designated and will assume the power of both a village council and a village administrative committee.

According to the election schedule, elections are planned in 1,268 villages (50.1% of the total villages throughout the country) in two phases in 1967:

a. Phase I: 993 secure villages.

- Zone 1: 174 villages (32% in the Corps)
- Zone 1: 289 villages (38%)
- Zone 3: 201 villages (44,3%)
- Zone 4: 329 villages (42%)

Total 993 villages (39.3% throughout the country)

b. Phase II: 275 villages. This number is contingent on the development of the R.D. program.

- Zone 1: 58 villages (10% in the Corps)
- Zone 2: 77 villages (10%)
- Zone 3: 70 villages (15,4%)
- Zone 4: 70 villages (9%)

Total 275 villages (10.8% throughout the country)

On the other hand, 928 provisional village administrative committees will be appointed:

- Zone 1: 244 villages (44.4%)
- Zone 2: 208 villages (27,7%)
- Zone 3: 132 villages (29.1%)
- Zone 4: 344 villages (44.4%)

Total 928 villages (36.7% throughout the country)

In order to ease the work load and provide security elections were scheduled in 5 successive steps:

- Step 1. April 2, 67: 219 villages
- Step 2. April 9, 67: 258 villages
- Step 3. April 16, 67: 255 villages
- Step 4. April 23, 67: 186 villages
- Step 5. April 30, 67: 75 villages

Total : 993 villages

II. Result of the election in Phase I

A. Review of the election

Upon completion of phase I, 984 villages were recorded to have held election of village councils (Number of villages scheduled to hold election is 993 villages). The election plan for stage 1 was 99% accomplished.

There were 9 villages in which elections were postponed to phase II. Reason:

- 5 villages (security problem)
- 3 villages (number of candidates was not sufficient)
- 1 village (in Quang Tri province the people must be resettled in a more secure area as a result of the recent VC attack in the demilitarized zone).

In accordance with a directive from the Special Commission for Administration, pending election of village councils, and effective May 1967, provisional village administrative committees will be established in all villages scheduled to hold election in phase II (including villages in which elections planned for phase I have been postponed) and in villages where security conditions do not permit. As a result, the final number of provisional village administrative committees will be greater than the number originally proposed.

Phase I elections were successfully accomplished. If we look at the map, we find that secure villages throughout the country are closely connected such as those in the fertile delta in zone 4, along lines of communication in Zone 1 or Zone 2 or in neighboring areas of the Capital as a security perimeter. We also find that the government has kept control of the most fertile areas of the country. Most of the remaining area where elections can not be held in woody or marshy area where few or no peasants live.

We can therefore reason that the more developed the lines of communication, prosperous areas and government authorities are, the more extended the secure areas are. Some decisions governing reestablishment of Sadec province (Decree of 24 September 1966) and establishment of Rach Kien district in Long An province (Arrete of 7 January 1967) proved its appropriateness. In Sadec, the people in the entire province enthusiastically participated in the election (90%). In Long An, although the newly established Rach Kien district did not hold

elections, it shared the burden with Can Duoc district so that the latter could hold elections very satisfactorily (4 villages out of 7 held election and the percentage of voters was very high).

Development of government structure at village and hamlet level and assignment of RD Workers to rural areas are important achievements because to hold an area is more difficult than to clear it. Obviously these units are advanced parties in developing and accomplishing the national reconstruction.

B. Voters

1. Throughout the country there were 3,233,441 voters enrolled in the election of village councils in phase I as follows:

- Zone 1: 392,888
- Zone 2: 628,320
- Zone 3: 904,865
- Zone 4: 1,307,368

Total 3,233,441

2. The number of voters who went to the polls was 2,511,453 (77.6%) and broken down as follows:

- Zone 1: 316,877; 80.6% (in the Corps)
- Zone 2: 512,160; 81.5%
- Zone 3: 600,910; 66.4%
- Zone 4: 1,081,506; 82.7%

Total 2,511,453

3. Number of invalid ballots: 52,581 (2%).

- Zone 1: 3,764 (1.1%)
- Zone 2: 11,883 (2.3%)
- Zone 3: 17,843 (2.9%)
- Zone 4: 19,091 (1.7%)

Total 52,581

Comments

a. As compared not only with Western nations but also with other Afro-Asian countries, the number of voters who went to the polls was very high. This was due to the sense of responsibility of each individual to the village community and to the fact that voters knew candidates who have been their co-

villagers (reference to article 12, Decree No. 199-SL/DUHC dated 24 December 1966, candidates for village council must have lived in the village concerned for one year prior to the date of candidacy application).

There were comparatively few invalid ballots.

b. The elections were held after the harvest during good weather and voter participation was enthusiastic. Local authorities were empowered to fix such election days as deemed appropriate and in accordance with the general guidance of the central government. Additionally the elections were held in secure areas as previously provided for.

c. Percentage of voters going to the polls: Generally speaking, an average of 78 per cent of registered voters went to the polls throughout the country. Upon examining each zone, province and village separately, we have the following comments.

- Difference in voters' psychology: Voters in rural areas knew that their present and the future of their descendants were connected with those in power in their villages and hamlets. In addition, the question of position, honor and prestige were essential elements conducive to keen competition. In some areas voter participation was 100%.

On the other hand, since voters in province and district chief towns have had opportunities to contact provincial authorities and the central government in the capital and since they do not live by farming, they paid little attention to the elections. As an example, in Binh Hoa village (located in Gia Dinh chief town), the percentage of voters who went to the polls was 43.6% and in Phu Nhuan village (neighboring area of the capital), the percentage was 23%.

In these two cases it was found that although the voters live in Gia Dinh chief town, they earn their living in the capital, they buy rice in the capital, use electric power from CEE and water from Dong Nai Water Supply plant and therefore are not concerned with the elections.

Another reason is that the peasants live scattered in large areas, so they have a high sense of corporate feeling. They are united to meet danger and to fight against their common enemy. On the other hand city dwellers faced with overpopulation and provided with material comfort, confine their interests to their families.

d. Let us come back to the case of Gia Dinh province; the low percentage of voters who went to the polls indicated that they directly preferred to be city dwellers rather than village dwellers. Incorporation of Gia Dinh chief town with Saigon in order to ~~make~~ the capital larger now becomes an obvious fact.

In this connection, the status of some other chief town villages should also be reconsidered.

With regard to villages in rural areas where the population is not dense but the sense of solidarity is high and traditional values are firmly preserved, effective assistance should be given in order to promote the community life in those areas within the framework of the R.D. program.

C. Candidates

1. Ratio of candidates to the number of seats.

Generally speaking, the ratio was fairly high. In some localities, the ratio was 300% (In Ba Xuyen Province, in the 3rd phase on 16 April 1967). In other localities the ratio was moderate, with the number of candidates slightly higher than the number of seats to be filled. This fact disproved previous opinions that manpower in rural areas had been exhausted. However, this ratio was lower than that in the election of the Constituent Assembly of 11 September 1966 (540 candidates against 117 seats, that is 461%).

Looking into the matter, we found that those who volunteered to render service to their villages were actuated by the sense of responsibility of common good and of honor rather than by pecuniary compensation which, although adjusted was regarded as low.

In several cases the high ratio was also due to the encouragement of local authorities. In provinces where the province chief or his deputy was to be replaced the ratio was relatively low. This is a lesson of experience which shows that a successful plan requires an appropriately assigned staff and once the plan is put into execution, any replacement or change in the staff should be avoided.

On the other hand, the ratio was moderate in some areas because the peasants, mild by nature, usually tend to make concessions to each other. Such keen competition as found in the recent election of the Constituent Assembly did not take place.

However, this did not mean that they agreed to irregularity. In fact several complaints were lodged against irregularity and fraud in the election. To the knowledge of the Special Commission for Administration, 34 complaints were filed with local election councils or local courts and classified as follows:

- 17 complaints about removal of candidates from the list
- 3 complaints against individual candidates
- 8 complaints about unlawful campaigning
- 1 complaint against libel
- 3 complaints against local election council
- 2 complaints about troubles that some candidates met with in campaigning.

In addition, several complaints were lodged with SCA without going through proper channels as provided by law (article 32 and 36 Decree No. 199-SL/DUHC dated 24 December 1966).

2. Local feature

For the purpose of transmitting village affairs to villages to take care of, basic documents governing reorganization of the administration provided that eligible candidates must have lived in the village concerned for at least one year without interruption prior to the date when candidacy application is filed (Article 12, Decree 199-SL/DUHC dated 24 Dec. 1966). The following composition of elected candidates reflects the feature of each locality:

a. Race:

- Vietnamese		8,346
- Highlander	335	}
- Cambodian descent	172	
- Chinese descent	20	
- Cham	78	
- Refugee Montagnard from North Vietnam	13	
		618

Total: 8,964

b. Religion and political party:

Formally most candidates ran for village council membership as independants but actually gained the support of some religions or political parties.

Candidates seldom introduced their political parties to voters, except in case they lodged a complaint or a denunciation to local authorities (Vietnamese Kuomintang in Quang Ngai and Binh Dinh). In other provinces, political parties secretly voted their candidates into village and hamlet administration in an attempt to spread their influence in the next election of the President and the Congress.

The growing influence of political parties is a stimulus to the democratic process. Nationalist parties have contributed to eliminating VC attempt to introduce their men into village and hamlet administration. These parties should be upheld in order that they may play a key role in the political arena for the promotion of a genuine democracy.

However, it is found that at the present time organization of political parties is very complicated. These parties have not been coalesced into larger groups capable of influencing public opinion. On the other hand, since they still work as underground political groups, very few candidates call themselves members of a specific party.

c. Profession:

Following is the composition of elected candidates:

1. Farmers	5,118	(57%)
2. Village and hamlet officials	1,182	(13.1%)
3. Merchants	1,032	(11%)
4. Liberal profession	439	(4.7%)
5. Private employees	349	(3.8%)
6. Government officials	346	(3.8%)
7. Handicraftsmen	203	(2.2%)
8. Notables	150	(1.6%)
9. Housekeepers	94	(1.04%)
10. Ex-servicemen	27	(0.3%)
11. Province councillors	24	(0.26%)
Total	8,964	

3. Average age

The youngest member is 25 years old, the minimum age limit for a candidate. The oldest is 90 in Quang Nam province.

From this fact we find that we can revive village autonomy because for some decades these old men have understood what village autonomy meant. We can also reason that behind the wall-like green bamboo hedge, the tradition for respect of old men and respect for five cardinal virtues still exists.

The average age of members of village council is 49, higher than that of deputies of the Constituent Assembly (40) and higher than that of province and city councillors (43). It is learned from this fact that the young generation now has the tendency to lead a city life in order to enjoy comforts of material civilization.

This tendency is found not only in Afro-Asian newly developed countries but also in Western nations. The reason is that young men prefer high positions with good pay and honor at the central level to other positions at village level. On the other hand, under the present condition education has not been successfully used as an effective means for young men to return to rural life. In cities many intellectuals graduated from high school and university are competing for employment while in rural areas, we are short of hands for reconstructions and production.

The high average age has also shown that young men are deserting their villages and leaving them to the care of old men. This fact also endorses our reasoning that Vietnamese civilization will become Western styled rather than Eastern styled, because city life is the milieu for Western civilization. This observation should not be neglected in initiating reform programs.

4. Male and female candidates

Out of 8,964 elected candidates, 274 were female (3%).

Provinces where several female candidates were elected:

Vinh Long (4th Corps):	27 (3%)
Long An (3rd Corps):	15 (6.8%)
Gia Dinh (3rd Corps):	13 (4.7%)

In Phong Dinh, a female candidate was elected Chairman of Long Tuyen Village Council with highest number of ballots (4,331) in the province. In Darlac province, a female candidate was elected Chairman of Lak M'Trung Village Council (Lac Thien district) and another woman was elected deputy Chairman of the said council (election of 9 April 1967).

It is noted that in previous elections participation of women as candidates was limited, but in this election the government maintained equal rights for men and women.

The reason for which women are entitled to assume village administration is twofold: To emancipate women in accordance with the democratic process, and to ask them to replace men in village affairs. The appeal of the government met with an enthusiastic response from women and such responsiveness was a revolution in the traditional village life.

5. Old members and new members

Of the total number of elected candidates, 1,182 were former village or hamlet officials and 7,782 were newly elected members.

The purpose of reorganization of village and hamlet administration is to provide rural areas with a new and healthy life that is to screen cadres at the grass-root level, to pick out anti-communist nationalistic cadres, to eliminate corrupt officials and country lords and to receive returnees from the opposite side with open arms.

Following is the result:

- 286 candidates were eliminated because they worked for the Communists, they were pro-communist, or neutralists for the benefit of the communists (with reference to item 9, article 13, Decree No. 199-SL/DUHC dated 24 December 1966) including 25 former village and hamlet officials.

- 1,182 out of 1,719 former village and hamlet officials were elected.

- 3 out of 4 returnees were elected.

Following is a comparison between qualifications and background of newly elected members and outgoing members:

- 25 provinces found that new members were better qualified:
- 4 provinces said that they were on the same level.
- 6 provinces said that new members were less capable.
- 9 provinces maintained a reserved attitude.

Comments on responsiveness of voters:

- 31 provinces found that voters maintained a more positive attitude than ever.
- 5 provinces said that voters maintained the same attitude as before
- 8 provinces said that voters were less active.

III. Population under the control of the government:

The population in South Vietnam has not been clearly determined. Information provided in statistical statements has no guarantee. Local authorities suggested one figure while the central government introduced another figure. In some cases central agencies did not agree on the matter of population. An interdepartmental meeting was convened by the Special Commission for Administration to set a criterion for determination of the population under the control of the government.

The meeting agreed that the population under the government's control included the population living in the capital, in 5 cities and in villages where election of village councils would be held.

In these villages, the population can be estimated from the number of voters registered for the election of the Constituent Assembly on 11 September 1966. This number of voters was 35%, that is 35 eligible voters enrolled out of 100 people. We should increase this percentage to 45, that is 45 eligible voters for each 100 people. This shows a high percentage of young population (people under 18 years of age constitute the majority).

According to this criterion, the population under the government's control throughout the country can be estimated at 10,390,731. Following is the computation:

- Voters enrolled:	3,770,914	
- Population under government's control:	$\frac{3,770,914 \times 100}{45}$	= 8,379,808
- Population in the capital and cities:		<u>2,010,923</u>
Total		10,390,731

This figure does not include 1,700,000 anti-communist refugees who have not been resettled in permanent localities, and those people who live in villages where provisional village administrative committees are to be assigned. These villages are called contested areas.

The above figures and information do not permit us to have a pessimistic attitude regarding the situation of our country or to attach exaggerated importance to the VC's strategy aimed at using rural area to blockade cities.

IV. VC reaction

According to documents seized during military operations and to their argumentation through their broadcasting station, the VC placed emphasis on using rural areas as their source of supply and their field of operation. In fact, the reorganization of village and hamlet administration was an effective plan to eliminate their influence from rural areas. For that reason, the VC has used every possible means to prevent the elections, e.g. assassination of candidates, acts of terrorism, etc. Total number of VC sabotage for Phase 1 of the election was 555.

- 6 attacks
- 5 mortar firings
- 2 ambushes
- 247 acts of terrorism
- 295 sessions of armed propaganda.

Casualties

	<u>Government</u>	<u>Enemy</u>
E.M.:	18 killed, 41 wounded 3 missing	2 killed, 1 captured (some more killed or wounded and carried away by their fellows)
Cadres:	8 killed, 8 wounded, 7 missing	2 killed, 4 captured
Candidates:	6 killed, 1 wounded, 18 missing, 22 captured but already returned	
People:	15 killed, 52 wounded, 36 missing	
Materials:	7 individual weapons and 1 Dodge damaged 1 village headquarters smashed.	3 individual weapons, 8 mortar shells, 4 grenades, 1 mine.

VC activities were most intense during the week preceding the 5th election (144 incidents) and least during the week preceding the 4th election (82 incidents) On election days (with the exception of 30 April 1967 when nothing serious happened), the VC launched 44 attacks (1 assassination, 12 kidnappings, 25 cases of harassing fires, intimidation of voters etc.) To sum up, VC activities during the election of Village Councils were much more intense than during the election of the Constituent Assembly in 1966 (in this period only 166 incidents were reported: 32 explosions, 95 shellings, 4 sabotage acts, 5 kidnappings, 30 cases of intimidation)

As previously pointed out the VC plot to sabotage the election failed for the national cadres were vigilant, the election being held only in secure areas and spread over 5 phases, thus allowing local forces sufficient time to concentrate their efforts for the protection of the selected places. The efforts of the local authorities were crowned with reward for the plan was successfully carried out as expected.

Despite the fact that the VC could not sabotage the election, precautions must be taken after the election. If the elected Constituent Assembly men work in the Capital after the election, then the village council members must stay on the scene to work with the people. There are only 117 Constituent Assembly men but there are 8.964 village council members. The VC, will try to undermine our administrative structures in the days to come. Therefore, strengthening measures are most essential.

V. Strengthening measures

In the plenary session of the Social Political Committee of the Civilian Military Council emphasis was placed on strengthening measures rather than reorganization measures for success does not depend on basic documents but on the measures applied later to carry out the common policy as defined in the basic documents.

Consequently, in circular 191-TT/DUHC dated 24 December 1966, the Prime Minister specifically asked Commissioners to carry out the following strengthening measures:

- (1) - Organize elections in a manner to show their free and just nature, encourage capable individuals to run for election: Commissioner for R.D.,

Commissioner for Information and Open Arms, Special Commissioner for Administration.

- (2) - Organize seminars at District, Province levels, training at Village/Hamlet level: Commissioner for R.D., Special Commissioner for Administration in coordination with other Commissioners.
- (3) - Provide additional work facilities such as typewriters, vehicles...to village, hamlet offices: Commissioner for R.D., other Interested Commissioners, Special Commissioner for Adm.
- (4) - Provide weapons to officials who hold key positions in villages for self-defense: Commissioner for R.D., Commissioner for National Defense, Special Commissioner for Adm.
- (5) - Issue necessary instructions to popular forces at village level to closely cooperate with the village authorities: Commissioner for Defense, Commissioner for R.D., S.C.A.
- (6) - Increase allowances for Village officials, unify the allocation of expenditure fund: Commissioner for R.D., Commissioner for Information and Open-Arms, Commissioner for Security, Commissioner for Youth, Special Commissioner for Administration and DGBFA.
- (7) - Control the use of village fund so as to respect the autonomy of its budget, draw the attention of provincial authorities to instructions concerning this matter, particularly circular 65-UEHC/NSNV dated 22 Sept. 1965 of the Prime Minister office: Office of the Superintendent General, S.C.A. and DGBFA.
- (8) - Study the reorganization of administration at district and province levels in order to support the reorganization of village/hamlet administration: Commissioner for R.D. and Special Commissioner for Administration.

Of the above-mentioned measures, 2 problems pertaining to popular forces and administrative reorganization of province district are under study. All other measures have been realized (in particular the organization of elections, the organization of training, increase of allowances, facilities for village hamlet offices) or have been studied for implementation in the near future (such as providing weapons to village/hamlet officials).

In the field of personnel training has been considered as an important requirement to supplement the reorganization of structures and to help provide village/hamlet administration a new category of efficient generalist cadres ready to serve the program of new life reconstruction. To attain this end, the S.C.A. has worked out a basic training program which will be put into effect in all provinces immediately after the newly elected or appointed village/hamlet officials begin to take office.

Training courses and seminars will be held in provinces to help village/hamlet officials understand many important matters such as:

- Objectives and significance of the reorganization of village/hamlet administration .
- Basic politics
- Improvement of attitude and activities techniques
- Rural construction
- Administration
- Specialization and on-the-job training

The training period of each course is 15 days and necessary expenditures incurred will be provided by central government. Basic training materials for the above program have been prepared and published by the Commissioner for Revolutionary Development and the Special Commission for Administration in cooperation with other central technical agencies.

In the 1st phase, 3000 training books (600 pages each) were forwarded to the provinces early the month of April, 1967, for use in organizing training courses.

With the assistance of USAID and JUSPAO, 50,000 training books were printed for distribution to all trainees and village/hamlet administrative offices for reference.

To create favorable conditions for the training of village/hamlet officials, the S.C.A. has requested all provinces to send their training directors, instructors and high-ranking officials to participate in:

- Sessions on training techniques in the tactical zones.
- Pilot training courses for village/hamlet officials in provinces selected by tactical zones.

The training program was scheduled as follows:

- 4 sessions on training techniques to form instructors:

- Zone I (Jan. 30 to Feb. 4 '67, in Da Nang)
- Zone II (Jan. 16 to Jan. 21 '67 in Da Lat)
- Zone III (Nov. 15 to Nov. 19 '67 in Gia Dinh)
- Zone IV (March 21 to March 27 '67 in Dinh Tuong)

4 pilot administration training courses:

- Zone I (April 10 to April 28 '67 in Thua Thien)
- Zone II (" 20 to May 5, '67 in Binh Dinh)
- Zone III (" 17 to " 5, '67 in Bien Hoa)
- Zone IV (March 13 to March 20, '67 in Dinh Tuong)

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Conclusion.

In the year-end ceremony held at Independence Palace before the delegations of various civil groups and civil and military officials of the government, the Directory Chairman declared that one of the key works to be carried out by the government in the "Goat Year" (Dinh Mui 1967) is the reorganization of village and hamlet administration to support successfully the program of pacification and revolutionary development.

Because of its emergency nature the village and hamlet administration reorganization program launched through the elections of village councils for phase 1, was carried out prior to promulgation of the Constitution of the Republic of Vietnam on April 1, 1967. However, this program is recognized by the Constitution since it is in accordance with its basic principles relating to village institutions.

Even though the autonomy of villages and hamlets has been recognized by our history for about 500 years, it has once again become a topic for our world of today to discuss. To restore villages and hamlets to their basic positions in the nation, is a task worthy of our traditions and our aspirations. To build a basic administration which provides autonomy and defends the inherent rights of the people is a requirement not only for the present anti-communist fight but also for the future when peace reigns over this country.

In the future, if the people's struggle assumes a new aspect a political aspect which may be equally challenging - the basic administration must have been strengthened and improved to support this struggle towards victory. In the event communists succeed in infiltrating the lower level agencies for political purposes defeat could still be possible.

But we may believe in the success of village and hamlet administrative reorganization as stated in the Prime Minister's televised speech to the people on March 3, 1967: "...through the village and hamlet elections communists and oppressors will be eliminated by the people themselves, thus the people will be able to build a new life with justice and unity, to enjoy benefits thereof and to share the responsibilities".

Benefits commensurate to responsibilities coupled with a firm solidarity within the framework of a new life, these are the factors that help the rural people stand up together with other classes of people to build a bright future for the nation.

The foregoing resume is made up of excerpts from a paper prepared by the Special Commissioner for Administration, Mr. Nguyen Van Tuong.